

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 DOE-15 SOE-02 COM-04 EB-08  
LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W  
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R 061332Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2519  
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA POUCH  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL POUCH  
AMCONSUL IZMIR POUCH

UNCLAS ANKARA 4970

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU  
SUBJECT: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IN PUBLIC SECTOR PRODUCES  
STRAINS FOR ECEVIT GOVERNMENT

1. SOME 12,000 WORKERS OF THE TURKISH ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION ANNOUNCED JULY 6 THEIR INTENTION TO BEGIN DEMONSTRATION OF THEIR OBJECTION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO COME TO TERMS ON THEIR WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS. THE ENERGY WORKERS ARE REPORTEDLY ASKING FOR WAGE/BENEFIT INCREASES TOTALING 150 PERCENT OVER TWO YEARS. PROHIBITED BY LAW FROM STRIKING IN THE ENERGY INDUSTRY, THESE WORKERS WILL ATTEMPT TO SLOW DOWN PRODUCTION BY SUCH LEGAL MEANS AS REFUSING TO WORK OVERTIME AND TAKING THEIR HALF-HOUR LUNCH BREAK SIMULTANEOUSLY. WHEREAS THIS DEMONSTRATION IS NOT EXPECTED TO CAUSE WIDESPREAD DISRUPTION IN ELECTRIC SERVICES, IT WILL CAUSE CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCES IN VIEW OF THE ALREADY EXISTING POWER SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTRY. IN THE POLITICAL CONTEXT, PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND HIS GOVERNMENT WILL FEEL THE STRAIN NOT JUST OF THE 12,000 ENERGY WORKERS, BUT OF THE 440,000 OTHER WORKERS EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES WHOSE CONTRACTS ARE ALSO UNDER NEGOTIATION AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PRESENT TIME.

2. THE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS GRANTED WORKERS BY THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED TURKISH PETROLEUM CORPORATION (ANKARA A-50) APPEARS TO HAVE SET THE CONTOURS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR INDUSTRIES. THE GOVERNMENT FAILED TO HOLD THE LINE WITH THE PETROLEUM WORKERS' UNION (PATROL-IS), AND NOW THE

OTHER UNIONS FEEL COMPELLED TO FIGHT FOR COMPARABLE ADVANTAGES.

3. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT HAS BECOME PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. HE HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES WITH HALIL TUNC, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS (TURK-IS) AND SADIK SIDE, TURK-IS SECRETARY GENERAL, INCLUDING A THREE HOUR SESSION JULY 3, AND HAS ENDEAVORED TO WORK OUT ACCEPTABLE GUIDELINES FOR NEW CONTRACTS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. TURK-IS OFFICIALS ARE NOW HOLDING MEETINGS WITH THE ELEVEN AFFILIATED UNIONS INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WITH THE STATE PLANNING OFFICE. THEY ARE COMMITTED TO REPORT BACK TO THE PRIME MINISTER IN A FEW DAYS.

4. CONTRACT SETTLEMENTS WILL NOT COME EASILY. THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAS LAGGED FAR BEHIND THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS, AND THE WORKERS ANTICIPATE A SUBSTANTIAL SETTLEMENT WITH RETROACTIVE EFFECT. IN ADDITION THERE ARE MANY NON-MONETARY ISSUES, SUCH AS LOWER HOURS AND PARTICIPATION IN MANAGEMENT. FURTHER, POLITICAL INFIGHTING IS HAVING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS ON THE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS. SUPPORTERS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES WITHIN THE TRADE UNION LEADERSHIP ARE BY NO MEANS DISPOSED TO MAKE ECEVIT'S TASK EASIER, AND SOME MEMBERS OF ECEVIT'S OWN PARTY (WHO FAVOR DISK OVER TURK-IS) APPEAR TO BE USING THE SITUATION TO CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER. ECEVIT MAY HAVE MADE A TACTICAL ERROR IN BECOMING SO PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN

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THE ISSUES AT SUCH AN EARLY STAGE, AND HIS ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THE WHOLE PUBLIC SECTOR IN A SINGLE PACKAGE MAY ALSO INCREASE THE OBSTACLES TO EARLY SETTLEMENTS AMONG SUCH LARGE NUMBERS OF WORKERS WITH DIVERSE INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS.

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, TU  
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